



FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS TESTIMONY ON
MISS DIG Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act

Thank you Chairman Nesbitt and the members of the Energy and Technology Committee for the opportunity to talk with you in regards to the MISS DIG Underground Damage Prevention and Safety Act (MISS DIG Act). Frontier Communications supports the MISS DIG Act and specifically SB 539 and SB 540.

Frontier has over 25,000 miles of fiber and copper cable in the public right of way (ROW) in MI supporting not only our own retail services but also the retail services of wireless providers, CLECs, and RLECs by providing backhaul to cell towers, CLEC collocations, and rural call completion. In rural Michigan, the protection of telecommunications facilities from damage in the public ROW is critical to the continued expansion of the information super highway and support of critical public safety functions utilizing advanced telecommunications. With the MISS DIG Act, Michigan moves to the national forefront in protecting critical private and public infrastructure and balancing the needs of all citizens utilizing Michigan's public rights of way.

We are excited that agriculture, local government, and private and public users of the public ROW have come together to balance the needs of all. It is our understanding, after over a year of very public discussion, an issue may exist involving railroad right of way. Frontier advocates that the public ROW where railroad facilities may cross be protected by requiring railroads to comply by calling MISS DIG for locates whenever railroad maintenance or construction is performed in the public ROW. Railroads do not have a land interest in the public ROW, has agriculture does, and should not have minimum or maximum depths where they can dig in the ground without calling MISS DIG.

In order to facilitate superior implementation of the MISS DIG Act, communication and training of our personnel, contractors, and ROW partners will be required. Frontier request's that the MISS DIG Act not be given immediate effect, but is effective a minimum of 90 days after the Act is signed by the Governor.

Thank you again for the opportunity to talk with you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert E. Stewart".

State Director – Government and External Affairs
Frontier Communications